

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR MARCH

A warm March helped bring some early migrants to Eastern Massachusetts sooner than expected. The mean temperature was 43.3°, 5.6° above normal. The temperature held in the 60's on 8 days with a high of 67° on the 12th. The low was 26° on the 1st. Precipitation totaled only 2.20 inches, more than 2 inches below normal, and only 0.3 inches of snow fell, that amount on the 22nd. Heavier snow fell on the Cape as Nantucket reported 5 inches on that date. March was also mostly cloudy, setting a new record for cloudy days at 24 and giving us only 3 perfectly clear days for birding.

Numerous reports of loons and grebes were received throughout the month from all over the coast as well as an inland report of 3 Pied-billed Grebes from Worcester County. At least 2 different Western Grebes appeared off the coast during the month. An early Snowy Egret was found at Manomet on the 23rd. Black-crowned Night Herons and American Bitterns were reported, most likely continuing winter residents. An early Glossy Ibis was seen in Truro.

Good numbers of winter ducks continued despite the warm weather which brought in some early spring ducks. Thirty Wood Ducks were counted at the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield, and a Wood Duck box containing 11 eggs was found in Easton on the 30th. European Widgeons were found at Cohasset and South Dartmouth, and Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported from 3 areas. Three Harlequin Ducks appeared again at Magnolia, and 2 King Eiders were observed during the month.

Golden Plover at Newburyport on the 31st highlighted the shorebird reports. Yellowlegs arrived on the 13th in W. Yarmouth. A Common Gull was found in Newburyport Harbor on the 13th and continued throughout the month. It was seen most frequently 3 hours after high tide from the Sportsman's Lodge. The Little Gull was observed again at the north end of Plum Island on the 18th. Two late alcids were reported - a Thick-billed Murre lingering at Salisbury and a Puffin picked up and later released at Eastham on the 9th.

Phoebes arrived on the 21st and Tree Swallows on the 17th. Early reports of House Wrens were received, and Bluebirds were found in Ipswich. There were numerous reports of both shrikes; a Northern Shrike flew into a window in Hanover and was stunned, apparently blinded in one eye according to the observer.

The Orange-crowned Warbler was still present in Eastham, and a Palm Warbler was singing in Mt. Auburn Cemetery. Blackbirds arrived in large numbers early in the month, and a few winter finches remained. Early Chipping Sparrows were reported, and 45 Song Sparrows were banded at Manomet Bird Observatory during the last week of March.

Common Loon:			
thr.	6 localities	64	v.o.
Red-throated Loon:			
thr.	5 localities	13	v.o.
Red-necked Grebe:			
thr., 13	7 localities, Dennis (Corp. Beach)	100, max. 51	v.o., B. Nikulà
Western Grebe:			
1; 11, 19, 23	Cohasset; N. Scituate	1; 13	E. Sabin; v.o.
11, 14	Plymouth, Duxbury	1, 1	R. Maxim, C. Corwin
14, 18	Marblehead	1	R. Forster, G. Soucy #
Horned Grebe:			
14	Marblehead	68	R. Forster
Gannet:			
17, 17, 23	N. Scituate, Manomet, Eastham	1, 2, 30	S. Higginbotham, MBO, B. Nikula
Great Blue Heron:			
2	E. Harwich	30+	B. Nikula
Snowy Egret:			
23	Manomet	1	MBO (B. Sorrie)
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
25, 26	Eastham, Hingham	2, 6	CCBC (G. Wilson)
American Bittern:			
21, 28	Nauset, Tewksbury	1, 1	B. Nikula, M. Wilson
Glossy Ibis:			
20	Truro	1	W. Bailey
Canada Goose:			
18	P. I.	max. 1300	M. Moore
Brant:			
26, 28	Squantum, Duxbury	200, 200	G. Wilson, P. Garrey #

Snow Goose:			
5-14,18	Squantum,P.I.	1,4	D.Brown #, v.o.
thr.,23	Orleans,Southboro	1,2	R.Pease #,W.Walkup
Gadwall:			
11	P.I.	max. 14	D.Alexander
Pintail:			
18	P.I.	max. 14	R.Emery #
Green-winged Teal:			
18	P.I.	max. 100	M.Moore
Blue-winged Teal:			
13	Falmouth	1 pr.	R.Pease
European Widgeon:			
4,11	Cohasset	1	B&M Litchfield,G.Soucy
24	S.Dartmouth	1	SSBC(S.Higginbotham)
American Widgeon:			
31	Belmont	15	BBC(L.DeGiacomo)
Shoveler:			
1,1,21	Sandwich,Plymouth,Duxbury	1,1,2	R.Pease,H&D Carmichaels,P.Donahue
Wood Duck:			
18	Topsfield(IRWS)	30+	J&N Berry
Redhead:			
8-12	Plymouth(Jenning's Pond)	1 m.	Carmichaels
25	Acoaxet	1 pr.	S.Harrison #
Ring-necked Duck:			
24	W.Newbury	max. 80+	M&A Argue #
Canvasback:			
8	Yarmouth/Brewster	175	P.Martin #
Greater Scaup:			
24 & 31	Newburyport	2000	BBC(M.Moore)
Lesser Scaup:			
17	Cambridge(Fresh Pond)	4	BBC(J.Tomfohrde)
Common Goldeneye:			
24	Newburyport	max. 5900	BBC(M.Moore)
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
3;13-23	Falmouth;Newburyport	1 f;max. 5,Mar. 13	R.Pease;R.Forster
Bufflehead:			
3	W.Dennis Beach	70	C&B Holdridge
24	Westport area	60	SSBC(S.Higginbotham)
Oldsquaw:			
thr.	Newburyport	max. 200+Mar.25	J.Berry
Harlequin Duck:			
26	Magnolia	3	M.McClellan
Common Eider:			
10;10 on	Plymouth;Newburyport	2500;max.2100 Mar.24	SSBC(Litchfields);BBC(M.Moore)
King Eider:			
4,10	Provincetown,Plymouth	1,4	H.D'Entremont#,SSBC(Litchfields)
White-winged Scoter:			
10	P.I.,Plymouth	25,25	BBC(G.Soucy),SSBC(Litchfields)
Surf Scoter:			
10	Plymouth	10	SSBC(Litchfields)
Black Scoter:			
20	P.I.	12	W.Nelson
Ruddy Duck:			
3,26	Falmouth,Framingham Resrv.	8,7	R.Pease,P.Stanton
Hooded Merganser:			
7,30	5 localities	1-3	v.o.
Common Merganser:			
1,10	S.Dartmouth,Amesbury	10,15	W.Cornwall,H.D'Entremont #
16	Lincoln(Cambridge Resrv.)	20	R.Forster
24,31	Wachusett Resrv.,W.Newbury	19,20	B.Blodget,H.D'Entremont #
Red-breasted Merganser:			
24	Westport	90	SSBC(S.Higginbotham)
Goshawk:			
18&19,24	Rowley,Weston	1,1	R.Emery & D.Alexander,fide J.Baird
29	Barnstable(Sandy Neck)	1	R.Pease
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
thr.	4 localities	singles	v.o.

Cooper's Hawk:			
1	S.Dartmouth	1	R.Forster
Red-tailed Hawk:			
3,24	Brookline,Westport	5,4	A.Agush,SSBC(S.Higginbotham)
7 on	8 localities	1-2 tot. 11	v.o.
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
1-25;9	5 localities;Norwell	1-2 tot. 5; 3	v.o.;Litchfields
Rough-legged Hawk:			
18-24;31	Rowley,W.Newbury,Newburyport, Littleton;Bridgewater	singles; 3	v.o.; D.Briggs
Golden Eagle:			
21	S.Dartmouth/Westport	1	P.Regan & v.o.
Bald Eagle:			
21,22	Westport,Harvard	1,1	PBC(C.Plaud),fide B.Blodget
Marsh Hawk:			
1-26	Squantum	1	John Mitchell
3-20	P.I.	1-2	BBC(S.Grinley) & v.o.
8	Truro	1 m.	P.Martin #
Osprey:			
5 on	Westport	2-4	J.Fernandez & v.o.
Peregrine Falcon:			
31	Milton(summit of Gr.Blue Hill)	1	F.Hamlin
Pigeon Hawk:			
18&19,29	P.I.,Salisbury	1,1	M.Moore & v.o.,H.D'Entremont
Ruffed Grouse:			
7,10	Sandwich,S.Dennis	1,2	P.Martin,Holdridges
Virginia Rail:			
7,11	W.Roxbury,Sandwich	1,1	F.Atwood,R.Pease
American Coot:			
14	Falmouth	32	Holdridges
Piping Plover:			
25,26	Barnstable,Gloucester	6,1	B.Sorrie,M.McClellan
31	S.Dartmouth	6	H.Wiggin #
Killdeer:			
27	Bolton	16	D&V Crompton
Golden Plover:			
31	Newburyport	1	M.Gardler
Black-bellied Plover:			
31	S.Dartmouth	1	Argues #
Ruddy Turnstone:			
1	Cohasset	21	R.Chute
Woodcock:			
2,5	Middleboro,Norwell	1,2	K.Anderson,Litchfields
12	Newton,Littleton,Wellesley	1,1,1	P.Martin,J.Baird,R.Forster
Common Snipe:			
10	Woburn(Horn Pond)	1	BBC(J.Holman)
18	P.I.,Bolton	1,1	D.Alexander,B.Blodget
21	S.Dartmouth,Sandwich	7,1	PBC(R.Pease)
Greater Yellowlegs:			
13-26,15	W.Yarmouth,Dorchester	1,1	E.Matthewson,J.O'Regan
19	Wellfleet,S.Wellfleet(WBWS)	1,2	R.Forster,W.Bailey
24;28	P.I.,Eastham(F.H.);Squantum	1,3;2	R.Emery#,V.Laux;W.Cornwall #
Knot:			
18	Revere Beach	54	G.Soucy #
Purple Sandpiper:			
24	Westport,Acoaxet	30,15	SSBC, H.Bates
Dunlin:			
31	S.Dartmouth	150	Argues #
Sanderling:			
22	Barnstable(Sandy Neck)	10-15	R.Pease
Glaucous Gull:			
10,18	Salisbury	1,2	BBC(G.Soucy),D.Alexander &M.Moore
17,31	P.I.,Gloucester	2,1	D.Alexander,J.Berry
Iceland Gull:			
thr.	Salisbury	max. 20 Mar.10	BBC(G.Soucy)
Ring-billed Gull:			
thr.	Newburyport	max. 600 Mar.18	W.Bailey #

Black-headed Gull:			
2,5;4,25	E.Harwich;Chatham	1;1	B.Nikula;BBC,CCBC
8;13,31	Wellfleet;Newburyport	1;5,3	P.Martin;R.Forster,S&H Harrison
Bonaparte's Gull:			
18	P.I.(north end)	150	R.Emery #
Common Gull:			
13-31	Newburyport	1 ad.	R.Forster, v.o.
Little Gull:			
18	P.I.(north end)	1	D.Alexander,R.Emery
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
19	Salisbury	1	D.Brown #
Thick-billed Murre:			
10	Salisbury	1	BBC(G.Soucy)
Common Puffin:			
9	Eastham	1 (released)	W.Bailey
Screech Owl:			
4,6;7	Cambridge,Middleboro;W.Roxbury	1,1;1	R.Stymeist,D.Briggs;F.Atwood
Great Horned Owl:			
6,24	Middleboro,Ipswich	4,1	D.Briggs,J.Berry
Barred Owl:			
1	Cambridge	1	S.Metzger
Long-eared Owl:			
6	Middleboro	1	D.Briggs
Short-eared Owl:			
3,10,31	Salisbury	1	v.o.
25,27	Barnstable,Squantum	1,1	R.Pease,J.Mitchell
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:			
18	Sudbury	1 (picked up alive)	fide J.Baird
Yellow-shafted Flicker:			
24,31	P.I.,Cambridge(Mt.A)	5,4	M.Moore,L.Robinson
Pileated Woodpecker:			
13	Concord	1	C.Faxon
Eastern Phoebe:			
21	Plymouth,W.Newbury	1,1	Carmichaels,P.Garrey
24	Westport,Lincoln	1,1	A.Agush,P.Swift
25	Manomet,Eastham	1,1	MBO,CCBC(P.Aiken)
30	Bridgewater	(coming to nesting sites)	D.Briggs
Tree Swallow:			
17	Essex,Quaboag Valley	1,2	P.Parsons,B.Blodget
19,23	Middleboro	1,20	L.Pratt,M.Perry
23	Lakeville	20	M.Perry
24,25	Westport,Littleton	1,15	SSBC(S.Higginbotham),R.Baird
Fish Crow:			
18&19	Brookline	1	A.Agush
21,22	Jamaica Plain,W.Roxbury	1,9	H.D'Entremont,W.Cornwall
31	Cambridge(Mt.A)	1	L.Robinson
Boreal Chickadee:			
13	W.Boylston	2	B.Blodget
Tufted Titmouse:			
3	Brookline	13	A.Agush
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
3	Brookline	6	A.Agush
Brown Creeper:			
5&6	Dedham	4	A.Agush
House Wren:			
21;24,31	S.Dartmouth;Ipswich(Town Hill)	1;1	PBC(C.Plaud;J.Berry)
Carolina Wren:			
24	Acoaxet	1	SSBC(S.Higginbotham)
25,31	Westport	3,1	C.Ewer,ABC(H.Bates)
Catbird:			
11	Lincoln	1 (wintering)	P.Miller
Brown Thrasher:			
14	Marblehead(MNWS)	1	R.Forster
24,31	Barnstable,Ipswich(Town Hill)	1,1(singing)	R.Pease,J.Berry
Robin:			
8	S.Dartmouth	30 (migrating)	P.Regan
14,16	Wellesley,Brookline	14,40	R.Forster,A.Agush

Hermit Thrush:			
25,31	Cambridge,Marblehead(MNWS)	1,1	Argues,Harrisons
Eastern Bluebird:			
4	Chatham(Cockle Cove)	8	BBC(D.Baines)
8,31	Chatham(Harding's Beach),Ipswich	1,1	P.Martin,J.Berry
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
24	Ipswich	10	J.Berry
Water Pipit:			
4,8;24	Truro;Newburyport	1;1	H.D'Entremont,P.Martin;H.Wiggin
Cedar Waxwing:			
3	Cambridge(Mt.A)	28	S.Raabe
22,26	on Wayland,Waltham	15,30	P.Provost,J.Gibbs
Northern Shrike:			
3-24	P.I.	1	BBC(S.Grinely), v.o.
4	Ipswich(Crane's Beach),Eastham	1,1	J.Berry,R.Pease
Loggerhead Shrike:			
8	Dennis,Yarmouth	1,1	R.Pease,P.Martin
20,24	P.I.,W.Newbury	1,1	W.Nelson,BBC(M.Moore)
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
thr.	Eastham	1	v.o.
Myrtle Warbler:			
4	Sandwich	300	D.Brown
Palm Warbler:			
21	Cambridge(Mt.A)	1 (singing)	L.Robinson
Eastern Meadowlark:			
4	Chatham,Eastham(F.H.)	14,8	D.Baines,R.Pease
18	W.Newbury,Brookline	2,2	D.Alexander,A.Agush
31	Newburyport,Belmont	10,1	BBC(W.Drummond),L.DeGiacomo
Redwing Blackbird:			
1,2	S.Natick,S.Dartmouth	150,125	W.Haywood,P.Regan
3,4	W.Newbury,Brookline	50,80	W.Drummond,A.Agush
10	Sudbury,Plymouth	150,70	H.Wiggin,Litchfields
Common Grackle:			
7	Lincoln	300-400	J.Baird
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
16,29	Newbury,Tewksbury	25,75	R.Emery,M.Wilson
Dickcissel:			
7	Dorchester	1	J.O'Regan
18,31	Wellfleet(WBWS),Plymouth	1,1	W.Bailey,Carmichaels
Evening Grosbeak:			
thr.,26	Plymouth,Dedham	20,50	v.o.,A.Agush
Purple Finch:			
28	Fall River	30	PBC
House Finch:			
thr.,16	Wollaston,Brookline	5,3	R.Emery,A.Agush
Pine Grosbeak:			
9,18	Sandwich,Topsfield(IRWS)	9,4	R.Pease,J.Berry
Pine Siskin:			
6,11	Abington,Lincoln	1,2	E.Pearson,P.Miller
24,29	Topsfield(IRWS),Holden	4,7	J.Berry,Cromptons
Red Crossbill:			
1,12	Manchester,Belmont	12,2	L.Jodrey,P.Martin
13-19	Cambridge(Mt.A)	1-30	L.Robinson, v.o.
16	Woburn	4	M.Baird,R.Fox
21,31	Jamaica Plain(AA),W.Boylston	16,9	D.Brown,B.Blodget
White-winged Crossbill:			
1,10	Manchester,Woburn(Horn Pond)	1,2	L.Jodrey,BBC(J.Holman)
21	Jamaica Plain(AA)	9	D.Brown
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
31	Ipswich	1	J.Berry
Savannah Sparrow:			
7	Dorchester	2	J.O'Regan
19,24	Eastham(F.H.),Westport	1,1	R.Pease,SSBC
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
19	Eastham(F.H.)	1	R.Pease
Slate-colored Junco:			
31	Cambridge(Mt.A)	250	L.Robinson

Tree Sparrow:			
7	Dorchester	100+	J.O'Regan
Chipping Sparrow:			
13,25;31	Cambridge(Mt.A), Sandwich;S.Dennis	1,1;1	S.Raabe,R.Pease;Holdridges
Field Sparrow:			
2,24	Barnstable,Westport	1,1	R.Pease,SSBC
16	Woburn(Horn Pond)	1 (singing)	M.Baird
White-throated Sparrow:			
11	Cambridge(Mt.A)	11	BBC(R.Stymeist)
Fox Sparrow:			
11	Cambridge(Mt.A)	3	BBC(R.Stymeist)
Song Sparrow:			
22-31	Manomet	45 (banded)	MBO
31	P.I.	50	BBC(W.Drummond)
Lapland Longspur:			
thr.	Salisbury	max. 100	D.Alexander #
Snow Bunting:			
thr.	Salisbury	max. 30	v.o.

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR APRIL

This mid-spring month was warm and wet in Boston with an average temperature of 49.9°. The month's high was 84° on Easter, April 22nd; the lowest was 31° on the 13th and 14th. Rainfall totaled 5.65 inches.

Loons and grebes were present in about their usual numbers, and an Eared Grebe appeared at Manomet.

Heron specialities included 9 Little Blue Herons, 53 Cattle Egrets, 7 Great Egrets, 3 Louisiana Herons, 2 Yellow-crowned Night Herons, and a Least Bittern was picked up alive in Rockport.

A count of 2000 Brant was made in Duxbury Bay, and 600 Snow Geese, including 3 dark phases, were observed at Plum Island. Eight Northern Shovelers were noted at Plum Island, and over 2800 Oldsquaws remained in Newburyport Harbor.

The spring hawk flight was generally poor. Interesting raptor reports included many Turkey Vultures, a Black Vulture in Needham, a Golden Eagle in Templeton and 4 reports of Peregrine Falcons.

Oystercatchers returned to Monomoy, Golden Plovers were reported from Newburyport where 3 Reeves were seen, and a Ruff was found at the Bolton flats. Glaucous and Iceland Gulls lingered through the month, and the Common Gull was still present at mid-month at Newburyport.

Black-billed Cuckoos were reported from 4 localities on Cape Cod. Swallows did not appear in great numbers until the end of the month. Thirteen Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were noted. This species seems to be extending its northern range.

Southwest winds on the 15th, 16th, 17th, and again on the 21st, 22nd and 24th brought up many of the early migrants. Hermit Thrushes and Common Flickers peaked on the 16th, and Solitary Vireos were later than usual. Fifteen species of warblers were observed: high-lights were Orange-crowned, Cape May, Yellow-throated and Hooded Warbler.

A Western Meadowlark was seen and heard in Hadley on the 21st and remained until the 24th. Orchard Orioles were noted on Cape Cod, with only a few migrant Northern Orioles reported. There was an early influx of Summer Tanagers, Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. Red Crossbills were observed in many localities, but White-winged Crossbills were reported only from Mt. Auburn.

Red-throated Loon:			
15	South Shore	75	W.Petersen
Red-necked Grebe:			
2,5,7;15	Dennis(Corp.Beach);Barnstable	21,31,8;3	B.Nikula;R.Pease
Eared Grebe:			
25	Manomet(MBO)	1	B.Harrington, v.o.